plant in Tripura keeping in view the huge gas reserves in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this project is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) While availability of 1.0 MMCMD gas for a fertilizer plant in Tripura has been indicated, the Government does not at present support the idea of establishing a gas based fertilizer plant in Tripura in view of the projected consumption trends and the marketability of the product.

Gas Reserves in Tripura

163. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's plan to exploit huge gas reserves in Tripura both for gas based industries as well as for energy generation; and

(b) by when these projects will be completed and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Exploration efforts have resulted in discovery of substantial natural gas reserves in four major structures in Tripura. ONGC have already committed 0.13 MMCMD of gas to Tripura State Electricity Board against which 0.06 to 0.065 MMCMD is already being supplied, 1.0 MMCMD has been committed for the proposed fertilizer plant in Tripura and 0.75 MMCMD for the proposed Power Plant at Rokhia, Commitment has also been made to supply 0.02 MMCMD of gas to Agartala Municipality for domestic supply through pipeline. Efforts are underway to locate more prospective users of gas.

Retail Outlets of Petroleum Products

164. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reserve certain retail outlets of petroleum products for persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what percentage of retail outlets allotted so far has gone to the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) No, Sir, because a reservation of 25 per cent already exists in award of retail outlets for petroleum products for persons belonging to SC/ST categories.

(c) The details in this regard are being compiled, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Approval to Reliance Industries for PTA and LAB Project under MRTP Act

165. SHRI JASWANT SINGH:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reliance Industries have got an approval of MRTP Act for PTA and LAB project on the condition that the company will raise its own resources;

(b) whether Government are aware that the financial institution including LIC and UTI have provided leasing finance contravening the approval by the Government under MRTP Act; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) PTA project of Reliance Industries has been approved under MRTP Act, 1969, on the basis that sources of finance would be internal cash accruals, debentures, external commercial borrowings and free foreign exchange resources by raising rupee resources. A substantial expansion of this project under the scheme of Minimum Economic Scale of production has also been approved with sources of finance being issue of equity capital internal generation of funds/unsecured loans subordinate to equity, issue of debentures and loans, if any, from financial institutions. Foreign exchange requirements, if any, are to be settled to the satisfaction of Government.

LAB project of the company has been approved on the basis that sources of finance would be internal resources, foreign exchange loans/deferred payment liabilities/suppliers' credit and debentures.

(b) According to information available the financial institutions including LIC and UTI have not, so far, provided any leasing finance to Reliance Industries Limited in respect of these projects.

(c) Does not arise.

Self employment scheme for educated unemployed in Orissa

166. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for 1986-87 under the self-employment scheme for the educated unemployed youth in Orissa;

(b) the amount which was earmarked during the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 to implement the Scheme in the State;

(c) whether Government are aware that some of the Banks refused to entertain the applications of the unemployed youth after their selection by DIC during the year 1986-87; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The target fixed for Orissa State under Self-Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth during 1986-87 was 9300 beneficiaries.

(b) Under the scheme the Central Government allocates to States only physical targets in terms of number of beneficiaries and do not allot funds to implement the scheme. The loans are sanctioned by the banks on the recommendations of DIC Task Forces. The capital subsidy to the extent of 25 per cent on each loan contracted is paid out of Central budget routed through Reserve Bank of India.

(c) and (d) Government is aware that inspite of DIC Task Force recommendations applications do get rejected on scrutiny by banks. However, individual complaints, as and when received, are looked into in consultation with the Department of Banking.

Increase in the prices of paper

167. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that prices of paper in India have considerably increased due to the shortage of paper;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal for higher production and easy availability of paper;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and